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➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.◀

GENESIS AND GEOLOGY.*

Dr. Hughes is satisfied that there no conflict between the Bible and science. So far so good. But some of his interpretations of Scripture are questionable, to say the least. His exclusive and oft-repeated reference to Gesenius, Dana, and Le Conte, leads one to suspect that he has not read widely either in the direction of biblical or natural science. Moreover, in most of the instances where Gesenius is quoted, if not in all of them, a mere reference would have sufficed. Still, whatever may be the defects of the book, it certainly possesses the virtue of brevity; and in this day of making many books, brevity is a virtue. But will the time ever come when men will see eye to eye in their interpretation of the early chapters of Genesis? It would seem that the usual methods of investigation were inadequate; else, why should there be such utter lack of agreement among harmonists?

GOD IN CREATION AND IN WORSHIP.†

This book is a vigorous protest against Herbert Spencer's theory that worship and religious belief, even in their best forms, are but an evolution from burial rites. Rites of burial have evolved hero-worship and propitiation of ghosts. Ultimately comes the worship of God. Some customs of savages afford this theory a show of reason. But these customs give no account of themselves in records of the most ancient times. Those records inform us that temples were erected long before tombs were built; they recognize no hero before the time of Nimrod. The oldest piece of literature in the world, according to Renouf, is a hymn to the Maker of Heaven and Earth. But Herbert Spencer has shut his eyes to the truth which issues from the twilight times of history; he has even perverted the text of Scripture.

Along this line of our author's cumulative reasoning is marshalled an abundance of interesting citation and historic illustration, the book thus being a good source of information to those who are not acquainted with the more critical works. Its value is somewhat discounted, however, by the fact that the author appears to have been familiar with no more of the literature of the subject than was to be found in our own language at the time of his writing; and even at the present time the works on this subject written in our language are beset by many imperfections which can be remedied only by means of an acquaintance with the critical apparatus of other tongues. Moreover, the book before us perpetrates infelicities of expression which greatly mar its perspicuity, to say nothing of its literary finish. For example, we find the expression "evolutioning backward." We read also that the "descendants of Abraham lapsed into wrong ways and evolved into a debasing polytheism."

* GENESIS AND GEOLOGY, THE HARMONY OF THE SCRIPTURAL AND GEOLOGICAL RECORDS. By Rev. N. Collin Hughes, D. D., Chocowinity, N. C.: *Published by the author.* 8vo, pp. 142. Price, 75 cents.

† GOD IN CREATION AND IN WORSHIP. Part First. The Answer of History to Herbert Spencer's Theories of the Evolution of Ecclesiastical Institutions. By a clergyman. Second edition. New York: *Thomas Whittaker.* 1887. 8vo, pp. 120. Price, 75 cents.